

BULLETIN

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

NEW SERIES, VOL. II, No. 3

MARCH 15, 1923

"Clifford's exhortation to us to avoid committing ourselves to any form of belief lest we should discover later on that we have believed wrongly, is like a general informing his soldiers that it is better to keep out of battle altogether than to risk a single wound."—WM. JAMES.

TO MEMBERS:

A NEW TYPE OF "RUTH ASHMORE" NEEDED

SOME newspapers give advice on decorations for a party or the making over of an old dress, matters that are doubtless of importance to somebody; but as far as solving some of the pressing social problems of family life go, Miss Eleanor R. Wembridge, in the "Journal of Social Hygiene" of February, 1923, thinks the following topics are of greater importance: "Should the daughter give her pay envelope to her parents? Should the mother select the daughter's clothes? At what age should parents stop whipping their daughters? Is it right for little brothers and sisters to sleep in the same bed? In the same room? Shall the daughter select her own husband? How old are American girls when they marry? What clothes do Americans wear in the house? Is night clothing desirable? Should a girl have a place to entertain her callers? Is it a good plan for the married children to live with their parents?"

She also illustrates the importance of understanding social backgrounds in sex education by telling of a young friend who sauntered into her office at noon with the remark, "I got married this morning. He is not much good, but he has a house." And to the not unnatural question, "Where is your husband now?" came the rejoinder, "I told him to go back to the shop; you don't need a whole day to get married in, and I wanted to go somewhere this afternoon with my girl friend."

THE WORK OF THE MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S BUREAU

The Minnesota Children's Bureau, in its report for the Biennial Period ending June 30, 1922, states that it has dealt with 6,433 cases, classified as follows: Adoptions reported, 787; placements reported, 655; unmarried mothers, 2,714; feeble-minded committed, 655; miscellaneous, including delinquency problems, 1,622.

Of 1,773 petitions for adoption received since the establishment of the Bureau, January 1, 1918, 1,561 were recommended to the court for approval.

At the close of the last Biennial, 55 County Child Welfare Boards were in existence. To these have been added 16 during the present Biennial period. Thirteen of the older boards have been withdrawn. Hennepin County, in which Minneapolis is located, has an executive secretary and five assistants. Ramsey County, in which St. Paul is located, has a similar equipment. St. Louis County, in which Duluth is located, has an executive and two assistants. Seven additional counties have one executive, paid from county funds, and eight other counties have an executive who is being paid by the American Red Cross, in whole or in part. Thus 18 county boards have the service of a social worker who has had more or less training and experience of a professional character.

THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF CHILD WELFARE

This session is to convene in Geneva, Switzerland, in July, 1923. The following questions are to be considered, on resolutions voted at the First Session:

(1) To consider the advisability of the International Association taking action in order to obtain, by legislative means, effective measures to prevent and check juvenile moral corruption.

(2) To see how an international agreement could be made in order to preserve children from the dangers of demoralizing cinema performances.

(3) To examine the condition of children in the colonies.

(4) To consider how statistics might be compiled in every country to show the decrease in infant mortality since the opening of baby clinics, and the decrease in the number of stillbirths since the opening of prenatal clinics; and how to compile and compare the statistics of results obtained in different countries and how to trace back the causes of these results in connection with the principles of action of agencies and associations.

Another question, carried over from the first session, is the making of an international agreement to give a common definition to the meaning of the term "still-birth," and, at the same time, provide for uniformity in the registration of such births, in order to assure the possibility of a comparative study of health statistics.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE UNMARRIED MOTHER?

In reviewing Dr. Guibord's and Miss Parker's study entitled "What Becomes of the Unmarried Mother?" Miss Eleanor R. Wembridge, of the Women's Protective Association, Cleveland, gives the following summary of conclusions:

"There is no apparent relation between the mother's intelligence and her affection for her children. Nor has keeping the child deterred all the mothers from further sex irregularity. One-fourth of them were further reported for sex irregularities, after still caring for the child born of a previous illegitimate union. One-fifth of the mothers who were 'relieved of the burden of support' of the illegitimate child were also living irregular sex lives afterwards. Since almost three-fourths of those who continued their irregular practices were below normal in intelligence, that fact apparently had more bearing on their behavior than either the care or lack of care of the child.

"Less than a fifth of the group of unmarried mothers were after five years occupying a social position worse than they had before the experience of illegitimate motherhood came to them. The authors conclude that the fact of illegitimacy is more disastrous for society than for the mother herself. The authors' criticism of their work is that it does not embrace enough cases, that it does not cover a long enough interval to observe the final effect of the treatment on either the mother or child, and the case histories also were not as full as the authors felt to be necessary.

"Despite all these factors, however, the study is excellent and shows a thorough understanding of the types of girls who are likely to be mothers of illegitimate children. The description of the emotional type most commonly found, that of the 'mildly submissive,' with no rancor toward the father of the child and no regrets over her own behavior, is peculiarly penetrating. This emotional frailty and lack of force, which Dr. Guibord describes so well, has seldom been better phrased."

CHILD WELFARE IN ALABAMA

Dr. Hastings H. Hart has made a second study of the social institutions and agencies of the State of Alabama, at the request of former Governor Kilby. In this study he also deals with the State Department of Child Welfare, and tells of its growth, endorses its recommendations and its request for an increased appropriation amounting altogether to \$100,000 for the next year.

From the Director's report we quote—"In the Spring of 1922 the Directors of the Alabama Children's Aid Society proposed to the Alabama Child Welfare Commission that the Department take over the work of the Society. By agreement between its Directors and the State Child Welfare Commission all activities heretofore carried on by the agents of the Society are now carried on by the field workers of the Department."

COMMON COLDS

Dr. Frederick T. Lord in a recent number of "The Commonwealth" says:

"The cause of colds is thus far unknown. There is little to support the still popular belief that they arise in consequence of exposure in wet weather, wet feet, sitting in wet clothes or draughts, and rapid cooling of the body when overheated. The great frequency of such exposures without ill effects suggests merely a chance relation. Nansen's experience of freedom from colds among the members of his expedition under exposure to the extremely low temperature of the far North, and the development of colds and coughs among many of the party when on their return they landed at a thickly settled port, suggest that exposure to cold alone is not a sufficient cause.

"The greatly increased incidence of colds during the colder months of the year may largely be ascribed to the increased opportunity for contagion through contact, droplet and dust infection in houses, trains, street cars, theatres, halls, etc., during this period of the year, and the consequent opportunity for an increase of virulence of the virus by repeated passage from one individual to another. Lack of sunshine may also be a factor."

"HOW MANY PROBATION OFFICERS?"

"We have frequently been asked how many paid probation officers there were in the United States. The compilation of the new national Directory has made an exact answer to this question possible for the first time. The number is 2,656. This does not include perhaps nearly as great a number of volunteer probation workers. The number of paid workers has been steadily and constantly increasing, while the number of volunteers, formerly in the majority, has been growing less. This is as it should be. Probation work is a profession requiring special training, experience and time. The probation officer is a specialist in developing character and in effecting family and social adjustments. He should be a full-time worker, adequately paid.

"This new Directory reveals some interesting facts. Two states only are on the 'black list,' having no probation officers; namely, Oklahoma and Wyoming. There are other states, however, which have only a few officers, located principally in the large cities. Some of these are Delaware, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee. Most of these states are without adult probation. In none of them is there any state organization or supervision of probation work. In several of them the Association is now at work developing local co-operation to strengthen this needed service.

"Mention should be made of the 'banner' states, those having the most complete organization of the work, as indicated by the largest number of probation officers. These are, in their approximate order, Massachusetts, New York, Illinois, California, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Of these only one state has a paid probation officer in every court;

namely, Massachusetts, but no state as yet has an adequate number of officers to care for every delinquent before the courts who needs a probation officer's care."—From the "Probation Bulletin," February, 1923.

Where does your state stand?

RECENT MENTAL HYGIENE SURVEYS

"Mental-hygiene surveys of the following states have recently been conducted by the National Committee for Mental Hygiene: Arizona, Kentucky, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Wyoming. In addition to these surveys, special studies of the mental-hygiene needs of Louisville, Kentucky, and of the New York County jails have been made. The reports of most of these surveys are now being prepared.

"The survey of Arizona is of especial interest on account of the character of its population. Of 8,000 school children studied, more than one-fourth were Mexicans, the majority of whose parents were born in Mexico. Four Indian schools, with over 1,200 pupils, were also included. The Indian was found to present a less serious educational problem than the Mexican."—From "Mental Hygiene Bulletin," January, 1923.

CHILD WELFARE NEWS

The Winnipeg, Canada, Children's Aid Society was incorporated in 1898. Since then it has rescued from homes of vice and crime over 4,300 children. It has placed over 1,400 children in good foster homes for situations and maintained supervision over them during minority. During the past ten years it has had an average daily number of 1,135 children under constant supervision. A federated budget for the support of this and other organizations is now being considered. Eighty-five percent. of its funds are now raised by voluntary contributions.

The following joint resolution regarding a constitutional amendment, giving Congress power to legislate on child labor, was reported out by the House and Senate Judiciary Committees:

"The Congress shall have power concurrent with that of the several States to limit or prohibit the labor of persons under the age of eighteen years."

Only persons who have reached the age of forty and have no legitimate descendants are allowed to adopt a child in Switzerland. The adopter must be at least eighteen years older than the child to be adopted.

The child's own consent must be obtained before he can be adopted, supposing he has reached years of discretion. When the party adopted is a minor, or declared to be incapable of managing his affairs, the

father and mother, or the trustees, must give their consent to the adoption, even if the party adopted has reached years of discretion.

The February number of "Mother and Child" devotes considerable space to the Nursery School Movement. At least four articles bear on some phase of the subject.

The fourteenth census shows that in 1922 there were 1,060,858 children between the ages of ten and sixteen years gainfully employed in the United States. Added now to this appallingly large number of child wage earners are the number who were in school at the time of the census enumeration, but who have returned to the mills, mines, and canneries since the verdict of the Supreme Court was rendered.

Laws providing for the establishment of Kindergartens, upon petition of parents, have been enacted in California, Arizona, Nevada, Maine, Texas, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. This winter attempts are being made to secure similar legislation in many other states. If you can help such a movement you may obtain information on the subject from the National Kindergarten Association, 8 W. 40th Street, New York City.

The Mansfield, Ohio, "News" reports among the accomplishments of the Child Health Demonstration being conducted in Mansfield and Richland County, the operation of three health centers, with an enrollment of 374 well children; an increase in the number of public health nurses from four to twelve; an inspection of over 6,800 children by nurses since the commencement of the school term; a successful four days' institute on methods of teaching health to city and county teachers, and the opening of an extension course in health work by the Kent Normal School.

In Rhode Island, which is one of the States without Mothers' Aid, at least 554 mothers in the state have been found who need help in caring for their dependent children. A State Bureau of Child Welfare has been recommended.

The Uniform Illegitimacy Act has been introduced in the Legislatures of Connecticut, New Jersey, and New Hampshire.

The following statistics regarding illegitimacy rates were recently presented in the British House of Commons:

	Year	Rate per 10,000 total live births
England and Wales.....	1921	455
Scotland.....	1921	711
France.....	1913	879
Italy.....	1917	477
Belgium.....	1913	641
Holland.....	1920	213
Norway.....	1917	699
Sweden.....	1917	1,494
Denmark.....	1919	1,043

ENCLOSURES

The enclosures this month are as follows:

1. A new form of A-1 of our record blanks. This aims to meet the thoughtful criticisms of various children's workers who were gathered at the Milwaukee Conference. Please suggest improvements at once. We wish to electotype this if no important changes come in.
2. "The North Dakota Children's Home Finder" for January 15, 1923.
3. Two appeal letters from the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society (designed for bakers and builders).

LIBRARY LIST NUMBER 18

BOOKS

1. Eugenics, Genetics and The Family. Volume I. Eugenics in Race and State. Volume II. Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1923.

These two volumes contain the scientific papers of the Second International Congress of Eugenics. This Congress brought together in New York in September, 1921, 400 of the leading students of heredity, of statistics, of anthropology, and of eugenics from the United States, England, France, the Scandinavian countries, Italy, Czecho-Slovakia, Cuba, and the countries of Central and South America. Major Leonard Darwin, son of Charles Darwin, was the head of the British delegation. Most of the papers are brief and many are of interest to children's workers.

2. Moore, C. Ulysses. Nutrition of Mother and Child. Lippincott, 1923.

The subject matter is designed primarily for persons without medical training, and the book has been so arranged that it may be employed by nurses and social workers for instruction of mothers in the homes and in conducting short courses in nutrition. For many of the scientific facts presented use has been made of recent publications of such eminent authorities as Alfred F. Hess and Dr. E. V. McCollum.

PAMPHLETS

1. Child Welfare in Kentucky. Thirteen Four-Minute Addresses. Published under the auspices of the Adult Committee of the Kentucky Sunday School Association; Miss Frances Ingram, Editor-in-Chief.

Each lesson deals with a different phase of child-care and is written by as many different specialists. Helpful readings have been added for each topic.

2. The Commonwealth Fund. Annual Report for 1922. An interesting summary of the services that The Commonwealth Fund has rendered by financing various undertakings. Its program in child welfare, for which over half a million dollars was appropriated, is of particular interest to our members and worth careful perusal.
3. Health for School Children. Report of the Advisory Committee on Health Education of the National Child Health Council. This is School Health Study No. 1, published by the Bureau of Education, Washington.
4. Institutional Child Care, A Program of. By Elias L. Trotzkey, Superintendent Marks Nathan Jewish Orphan Home, Chicago; January, 1923. This pamphlet contains ten years' report, as well as a program of child care in that institution. It is an interesting statement of the institution's work.
5. Institutional Care. A study of the Marks Nathan Jewish Orphan Home, made by the Research Bureau of the Jewish Philanthropies of Chicago.
6. Maternity and Child Care in Selected Rural Areas of Mississippi, by Helen M. Dart.

This is Bureau Publication No. 88 of the Children's Bureau, and Rural Child Welfare Series No. 5. Six hundred and seventy-five families were visited and most of them were living in poorly constructed houses far too small to accommodate the whole family with any degree of comfort. The sanitary conditions in connection with these houses were found to be poor. Among the recommendations are employment of a public health nurse for the county; a county or district health officer on full time; the establishment of a county hospital, with free care available for those unable to pay; provision for the training and supervision of midwives, and the enforcement of birth and death registration laws.

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

MASSACHUSETTS.—Boston. New England Home for Little Wanderers. Cheney C. Jones, Executive Secretary to succeed Dr. Frederic H. Knight, deceased.

MINNESOTA.—Minneapolis. Children's Protective Society. Miss Caroline M. Crosby, Executive Secretary, to succeed Cheney C. Jones, resigned.

OHIO.—Cincinnati. The Boarding Home Agency has been discontinued.

C. C. CARSTENS, *Director*